

Message Text

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SUBJ: STUDY GROUP ON CONSUMER LOGISTICS

REF: STATE 291079, 292147Z NOV 76

1. THE STUDY GROUP HELD ITS THIRD AND FINAL MEETING ON 29 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 1976 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR.COTTON. AFTER A REVIEW OF POSITION PAPERS ON THE 33 INDIVIDUAL ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE GROUP, THE CHAIRMAN PRESENTED A DRAFT REPORT. THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP THOROUGHLY REVISED THE DRAFT REPORT TO INCLUDE THEIR INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS, AND FINALLY AGREED ON A CONSLUSION INDICATING THE NECESSITY FOR A CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM WITHIN THE CIVIL STRUCTURE OF NATO. THE VOTE ON THE CONCLUSION WAS SEVEN FOR (US, UK, CANADA, NETHERLANDS, INTERNATIONAL STAFF, SHAPE, AND INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF), AND TWO AGAINST (FRG AND BELGIUM). THE REPORT, WHICH WAS COMPLETED AND APPROVED DURING THE MEETING, WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN DRAFT NEXT WEEK TO WORKING PARTY MEMBERS, AND DISTRIBUTED OFFICIALLY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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BOTH LANGUAGES TO THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP WITHIN ABOUT ONE MONTH.

2. EXPERT HANDLING OF THE STUDY GROUP BY CHAIRMAN

RESULTED IN A UNANIMOUS CONCLUSION THAT AT LEAST SOME KIND OF CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM WAS NECESSARY WITHIN NATO. THE DISSENTING VOTE BY THE FRG REP (GLATT) INDICATED THE GENERAL FRG VIEW THAT SUCH A FORUM SHOULD BE ON THE MILITARY SIDE. HOWEVER, THE BELGIAN REP (COL LINSMEAU) INDICATED IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF HIS AGREEMENT TO NATO'S NEED FOR SOME KIND OF FORUM, BELGIUM BELIEVES THAT NATO HAS QUOTE NO LOGISTICS PROBLEM END QUOTE, BUT IS CONFRONTED ONLY WITH NATIONAL RELUCTANCE TO SPEND MONEY, A SUBJECT WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE CREATION OF A LOGISTICS FORUM.

3. BOTH THE UK REP (RUCKER) AND THE SHAPE REP (COL SIEVERT) QUALIFIED THEIR AFFIRMATIVE VOTES WITH THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM TO BE CREATED AT A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH NATIONAL POSITIONS ON POLITICAL/FINANCIAL/LEGAL MATTERS. THIS QUALIFICATION WILL NOT BE REFLECTED IN THE REPORT, BUT WE EXPECT IT TO BE REPEATED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP. IN ADDITION, THE UK REP DID NOT VOTE UNTIL ALL OTHER MEMBERS HAD VOTED, AND THEN INDICATED THAT HE COULD HAVE AGREED TO A FORUM ON EITHER THE CIVIL OR MILITARY SIDE, BUT HAD BEEN INFLUENCED TO AGREE TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY GROUP BY THE FACT THAT THE US, CANADA, AND THE NETHERLANDS REPS HAD INDICATED A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL/FINANCIAL/LEGAL PROBLEMS IN A MILITARY FORUM.

4. WE WILL POUCH COPY OF DRAFT REPORT AS SOON AS IT IS PUBLISHED. STREATOR

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